

TELEGRAM

INFORMATION REPORT

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	CUBA	HAITI	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	REPORT NO.	TDCSdb-3/656,079
SUBJECT	PLANS OF ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRER ROJAS TO ASSIST GENERAL LEON CANTAVE IN HAITI AND THEN OVERTHROW FIDEL CASTRO RUZ			DATE DISTR.	16 AUGUST 1963
DATE OF INFO.	11-13 AUGUST 1963			PRECEDENCE	ROUTINE
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	UNITED STATES (14 AUGUST 1963)			REFERENCES	IN #525
APPRAISAL				FIELD REPORT NO.	

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE A CUBAN EXILE WHO WAS PROMINENT IN POLITICS AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL IN CUBA. SOURCE IS WELL KNOWN IN EXILE CIRCLES AND HAS REPORTED OBJECTIVELY ON EXILE POLITICS. THIS INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM LUIS ORTEGA SIENRA WHO SPOKE WITH HIS FRIEND RAMIRO ZACARIAS DE LA FE PEREZ.

1. ON THE EVENING OF 11 AUGUST 1963, ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRER ROJAS TELEPHONED RAMIRO ZACARIAS DE LA FE PEREZ AND ASKED TO SEE HIM AT 1 AM ON 13 AUGUST. DE LA FE WENT TO THE TOLEDO RESTAURANT WHERE A CERTAIN CEFERINO (LNU) MET HIM AND TOOK HIM TO AN UNIDENTIFIED PLACE TO MEET WITH MASFERRER. (FIELD COMMENT: POSSIBLY CEFERINO RODRIGUEZ OF THE EJERCITO INVASOR CUBANO (CUBAN INVASION ARMY).)

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FBI - NEW YORK	

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2. MASFERRER TOLD DE LA FE THAT HE HAD MADE A PACT OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE WITH HAITIAN GENERAL LEON CANTAVE IN NEW YORK ON AN UNDISCLOSED DATE. MASFERRER SAID CANTAVE WAS A MAN OF GREAT MERIT AND LIKENED HIM TO THE CUBAN LIBERATOR ANTONIO MACED. MASFERRER ASSURED DE LA FE THAT IF CANTAVE WERE VICTORIOUS AND ASSUMED POWER IN HAITI, THE CUBAN EXILES WOULD HAVE AT THEIR DISPOSAL A BASE OF OPERATIONS 4 MILES FROM ORIENTE PROVINCE IN CUBA.

3. MASFERRER SAID THAT IF THEY WERE ABLE TO ACQUIRE A BASE ON HAITI, THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO DESTROY DOMINICAN PRESIDENT JUAN BOSCH Y GAVINO WITHOUT MUCH DIFFICULTY. IN THIS PLAN THEY WOULD BE AIDED BY THE TRUJILLISTAS, ESPECIALLY THE SONS OF TRUJILLO, WHO WERE DISPOSED TO PROVIDING MONEY FOR SUCH AN ENDEAVOR. MARISOL ALBA WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN THE PLAN. ~~MASFERRER~~ ~~HAD A CLOSE FRIEND SITUATED WITHIN~~ THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WHO WAS WEAKENING BOSCH'S GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE PRESS AND RADIO. MASFERRER THEN CONFIDED THAT THE MAN WAS RAFAEL BONILLA AYBAR, A DOMINICAN NEWSPAPERMAN WHO USED TO WRITE FOR TIEMPO IN CUBA, WHICH MASFERRER OWNED UNTIL 1 JANUARY 1959 WHEN IT WAS BURNED DOWN BY THE PEOPLE AT THE TIME OF BATISTA'S FALL. ACCORDING TO MASFERRER, BONILLA IS INTELLIGENT AND HAS HIS FULL CONFIDENCE.

4. MASFERRER SAID THAT THERE WERE CONSPIRATORS WITHIN THE MILITARY AND CONSERVATIVE CLASSES WHO WOULD JOIN HIM, AND THAT WITH HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN THEIR POSSESSION, THEY COULD TOPPLE CASTRO. ONLY UNDER HIS TYPE OF PLAN WOULD FORMER CUBAN PRESIDENT FULGENCIO BATISTA AND THE CUBAN MILLION-

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AIRES ASSIST THEM. ALSO, THEY WOULD THEN BE IN A POSITION TO DEAL WITH THE UNITED STATES. IF THEY COULD NOT ACCOMPLISH THEIR AIMS, THEY WOULD BE LOST BECAUSE THE BATISTIANOS HAVE NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN ANY PLAN DIRECTED BY THE UNITED STATES REGARDING CUBA.

5. MASFERRER ASKED DE LA FE TO JOIN HIM AND TO TRY TO RECRUIT AS MANY MEMBERS OF 256 BRIGADE AS HE COULD. HE ALSO ASKED DE LA FE TO ASSIST HIM IN OBTAINING ARMS AND MONEY ENOUGH TO RENT TWO C-46'S WHICH WERE NEEDED TO TRANSPORT TO HAITI THE MEN HE HAD IN MIAMI. THE PLANES WOULD COST ABOUT \$4,000 EACH. MASFERRER SAID HE ALREADY HAD ONE PLANE, BUT IT WAS NOT ENOUGH SINCE HE HAD SO MANY MEN READY TO LEAVE.

6. MASFERRER EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD A GREAT MORAL OBLIGATION TOWARD HIS MEN, SINCE THEY HAD LEFT THEIR JOBS IN NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK AND OTHER PLACES, AND WERE DISTRIBUTED AROUND MIAMI, INCLUDING THE SEVATE HOTEL WHICH IS OWNED BY IREVALDO GARCIA BAZZ. THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PARTICULAR GROUP IS A CERTAIN TARAJA (PNU) WHO SERVES AS A LINK BETWEEN MASFERRER AND GARCIA.

7. ONE OF THE MEETING PLACES USED BY MASFERRER'S MEN IS A RESTAURANT OR BAR CALLED "LA CARRETA", ON SW 8TH STREET BETWEEN 12TH AND 13TH AVENUES IN MIAMI, WHICH IS OWNED BY CARLOS ZAYAS CASTRO WHO WORKS WITH MASFERRER.

8. MASFERRER SAID HIS MEN BELIEVE THEY WILL BE GOING TO THE CAMPS IN NICARAGUA, BUT THIS IS ONLY A PRETEXT TO FOOL THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES. MASFERRER SPOKE ILL OF THE PLANS

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WHICH THE US GOVERNMENT HAD WITH THE EXILE LEADERS, CONCERNING NICARAGUA AND THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

9. ACCORDING TO MASFERRER, THE FIRST OBJECTIVE IS TO LAND ON THE ISLE OF PINES AND FREE THE THOUSANDS OF PRISONERS THERE. MASFERRER FEELS THAT BECAUSE THESE PRISONERS ARE MEN WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN MILITARY TACTICS THEY WILL MAKE FIERCE COMBATANTS. (SOURCE COMMENT: DE LA FE THINKS THAT MASFERRER WAS TRYING TO IMPRESS HIM WHEN HE DISCUSSED THE ISLE OF PINES BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT DE LA FE'S BROTHER, ERNESTO, WAS A PRISONER THERE.)

10. DE LA FE BELIEVES THAT MASFERRER THINKS HE HAS MONEY, ARMS AND MEN AT HIS DISPOSAL AND THAT MASFERRER THOUGHT HE COULD "CAPTURE" DE LA FE EASILY. DE LA FE BELIEVES MASFERRER IS A MOST DANGEROUS MAN, WITHOUT ANY SCRUPLES, AND THAT HE IS GOING TO SEND THESE MEN TO THEIR DEATH. DE LA FE DID NOT ACCEPT MASFERRER'S OFFER.

11. (FIELD COMMENT: A FAIRLY RELIABLE REPORTER OF EXILE POLITICAL MATTERS SPOKE WITH MASFERRER EARLY IN THE WEEK OF 11 AUGUST AND SAID THAT MASFERRER TOLD HIM HE WAS IN MIAMI PRIOR TO EMBARKING FOR HAITI TO JOIN FORCES WITH GENERAL CANTAVE. ALTHOUGH US AUTHORITIES HAD BARRED MASFERRER FROM THE MIAMI AREA, HE IMPLIED IN HIS CONVERSATIONS THAT HE THEN HAD AUTHORITY, OR WOULD HAVE IT, TO BE IN MIAMI. ACCORDING TO MASFERRER, HIS MEN WERE WELL ARMED AND WELL DISPOSED TO FIGHT A GUERRILLA WAR IN THE HAITIAN MOUNTAINS. HE SAID THAT CANTAVE'S INVASION

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WAS A FAILURE, BUT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT CANTAVE HAD SINCE HANDLED HIS GROUP QUITE WELL FROM A MILITARY POINT OF VIEW AND HAS SECURED A GOOD MILITARY AND GEOGRAPHIC POSITION. MASFERRER SAID HIS HELP MIGHT BE DECISIVE IN OVERTHROWING THE REGIME OF FRANCOIS DUVALIER. IF SO, THE CUBAN EXILES WOULD BE ABLE TO USE HAITI AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS AGAINST CUBA. MASFERRER SAID HE FIRST HOUSED HIS MEN IN A HOTEL IN MIAMI AND THEN TRANSFERRED THEM TO A SMALL FARM IN THE MAJMI AREA. HE SAID HE RECEIVED THE MONEY FOR THIS EXPEDITION FROM SOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES, THAT HE ALREADY HAS A SHIP AND EXPECTS TO LEAVE FOR HAITI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.)

12. FIELD DISSEM: CINCLANT, CINCSO, COMNAVKEYWEST, MIAMI REPS OF STATE, USCG, BORDER PATROL, AND, FBI AND CUSTOMS.

END OF MESSAGE

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